

By JACQUELINE
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Christopher Boyce, jailed for selling secrets of America's satellite bases in Australia to the Russians, has again alleged the CIA deliberately withheld information about the American base, Pine Gap, from the Whitlam and Fraser Governments.

The former Labor Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, said last week he was interested to hear of the Boyce allegations, but would not elaborate, saying: "I must decline to comment because I will be writing about this in my own time."

He is writing a book about his political career. Boyce makes his claims in the first television interview since his conviction in 1977 for spying.

The interview, with Australian TV reporter Ray Martin, took place in the Leavenworth Prison in Kansas just over a week ago. It will be shown in Sydney in tonight's 60 Minutes program on Channel 9. The 29-year-old former college drop-out, now serving a 30-year-jail sentence, alleged:

A SPY STICKS TO HIS STORY



Ray Martin

ed a 40-year sentence for selling top secret material to the Soviet Union. He received a further 25 years for bank robberies committed when he had 19 months of freedom.

His partner-in-espionage, Andrew Daulton Lee, was given a life sentence. Boyce was an unlikely spy. He was an often-brilliant student from an affluent, religious family, good at sport and with a

shared between the American Government and the Australian Government.

Then along came Mr Whitlam. When I went to work for the project, at the initial security briefing I was told that in fact we weren't going to live up to that agreement and that we hadn't been that there was information that was being withheld. I also found that the Argus Project, which was the advanced Rhyolite Project, was to be hidden from the Australians. He said members of TRW security talked openly about the problem of Mr Whitlam, whom they regarded as a threat. The reasons were Whitlam's socialist politics and that he wanted to know what was

going on at Pine Gap. Although there were celebrations after Whitlam was re-elected, the situation did not change when Malcolm Fraser became Prime Minister in December, 1975.

'Our man Kerr'

"My instructions as to what was to be sent on to Moscow came from Alice Springs and Casino (Canberra) did not change," he said.

"I imagine it continued right up to the point of my trial and until the executive agreement was renegotiated," he said. Although no one talked about how or why the Whitlam Government was dismissed, Boyce said he had overheard references to the then Governor-General Sir John Kerr.

The Central Intelligence resident at TRW called Mr Kerr "our man Kerr," he said. The Prime Minister, Mr Doug Anthony, was unavailable to comment yesterday, but a high Government source said Mr Fraser and the CIA had denied similar earlier allegations.

Seen as threat

● The CIA deliberately withheld information gathered by a system of spy satellites called the Rhyolite Project based at Pine Gap from the Whitlam and Fraser Governments.

● Gough Whitlam was seen as a threat by the CIA and a party was held to celebrate his dismissal.

● The former Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, was referred to as "our man Kerr" by a CIA agent.

● The CIA infiltrated Australian trade unions and suppressed strikes.

Interviewer Ray Martin said last week: "If you can believe what he says — and at this stage there's no reason for him to lie — and unless the attitude of the CIA has changed, then you would have to wonder what chance a Labor Government has in Australia in the future if they can be destabilised as easily as he suggested."

"And that's not pointing the finger at the other side," Boyce says. "The CIA's deception over information sent on after Fraser was elected in 1975."

The son of a former FBI agent, Boyce received

passion for falconry. Like many of his generation, however, his ideals became confused after Vietnam and Watergate.

He dropped out of college and his father, then head of security at an aircraft manufacturing plant, arranged a job for him at TRW Defence and Space Systems Group, which builds, maintains and helps cooperate spy satellites for the CIA.

'Black vault'

At the age of 21 and after an almost routine security check, he was given the job of code clerk, working in a high security area called the "black vault" where he was in almost daily contact with some of the CIA's most sensitive secrets.

At his trial and later in the best-seller The Falcon and the Snowman, by New York Times reporter Robert Lindsey, Boyce said it was his disgust over the CIA's deception of its allies, particularly Australia, that made him decide to sell its secrets to the Russians.

Boyce told Martin: "When the Rhyolite Project was first put into place, the executive agreement meant that all information was to be



Christopher Boyce as viewers will see him tonight.